



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

were certainly Roman ; one was associated with Celtic skulls in character, and one resembled the river-bed skulls, which might possibly have preceded the "Celtic" race.

At the request of the President, Mr. Layton consented to allow the specimens to remain in the possession of the Society for a short time to allow of their being more carefully examined.

The following paper was then read : *Notice of the Brochs and the so-called Picts' Houses of Orkney.* By GEORGE PETRIE. (This paper will appear at length in the *Memoirs*.)

The author pointed out that besides the ordinary barrows or grave-mounds in Orkney, there were many tumuli which were ancient structures, and which were indiscriminately grouped by the natives under the title of Pict's House. Several varieties of these structures were known in Orkney, the author classifying them as "brochs" and as "Picts' houses." The former are circular towers of fifty to seventy feet diameter, and sixteen to seventeen feet high. The circular wall around them forms two concentric walls, with a gallery or passage between them, similar to that found in the Zetland brochs, which are less ruinous than those of Orkney. The nearly perfect broch of Mousa, in Zetland, is upwards of forty feet high. Mr. Petrie described the broch in the Isle of Burray, giving careful measurements of the compartments therein, and containing articles of stone, bone, bronze, and iron, the latter having been probably accidentally introduced. He drew no conclusion as to the age of the broch of Burray ; but in the case of the broch of Okstro, in the parish of Birsay, the order of superposition of stone kists belonging to the bronze age, in soil above the ruins of the broch, led to the inference that the broch itself was older than the stone kists found above it. Forty brochs at least were known in Orkney, and these were also to be found in several of the northern counties of Scotland. The Picts' house, on the other hand, is of a conical form, externally resembling a large bowl-shaped barrow. Its masonry is solid, and its entrance is by a long, low, narrow passage, the walls converging to the top ; no implements are found in the Picts' houses, but the bones of domestic animals are plentifully found therein. Mr. Petrie considered that the Picts' houses were tombs, or chambered cairns or barrows. He stated his opinion that Maes-howe was a structure of this class, and concluded by pointing out that the discovery of certain uniform characters inscribed on the brochs, the Picts' houses, and the barrows, suggested the idea that they were the remains of the same people.

THE PRESIDENT proposed the thanks of the Society to Mr. Petrie, their zealous and able Local Secretary in the Orkney Islands. The paper was the continuation of a subject that had been brought before the Society by Mr. Laing in which he considered the prehistoric remains of Caithness. A report on the same subject had been made by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Shearer, which he called on Mr. Blake to